

Remarks

Claims 1-13, and 16-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-14, 19-22, 30-33, and 35-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,710,885 to Bondi (hereafter “the Bondi patent”). Claims 5, 24, 34 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Bondi patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,787,252 to Schettler. Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Bondi patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,101,348 to Arrowood. Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Bondi patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,671,375 to Humblet. Claims 15 and 16 stand objected to, but have been indicated to include patentable subject matter. Claims 25-29 have been allowed.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include all of the elements of dependent claim 15 and claim 14, an intervening dependent claim. Claim 1 is therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 2-13 and 16-24 depend from claim 1 and are also allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to claims 1-14 and 16-24.

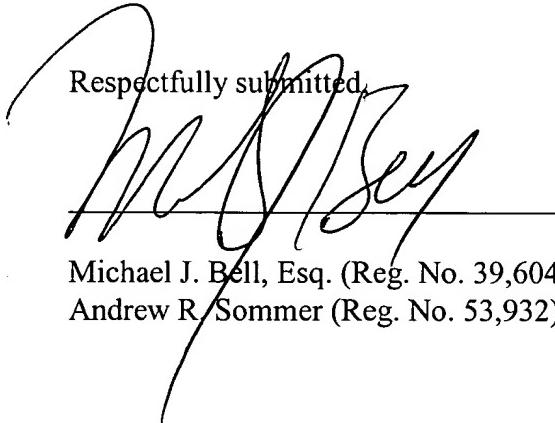
Applicants have cancelled claims 30-40 thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant(s) therefore respectfully request(s) that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant(s) believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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